

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A ~~retainer clip for retaining a lock plug within a bore of a lock housing, the housing having a central axis extending through the bore and an end surface extending generally radially with respect to the bore axis, the plug having a longitudinal centerline, an outer circumferential surface and two openings spaced circumferentially about the outer surface, the retainer clip comprising~~ lock assembly comprising:

a housing having a bore, a central axis extending through the bore and a radial end surface;

a lock plug disposable within the housing bore and having a longitudinal centerline, an outer circumferential surface and two openings spaced circumferentially about the outer surface; and

a retainer clip configured to retain the plug within the bore and including:

a generally arcuate body disposable about generally upon the plug outer surface and having a generally radial retention surface, the retention surface being positionable generally against the housing end surface so as to prevent axial displacement of the plug along the bore axis, and first and second free ends, and a central bended portion disposed between the two ends, offset radially inwardly with respect to a remainder of the body and providing an integral, foldable hinge; and

two projections each disposed proximal to a separate one of the two body ends, each projection being disposable within a separate one of the plug openings when the body is disposed on the plug outer surface so as to generally retain the clip engaged with the plug, the body being deflectable generally about the hinge portion during installation and removal of the projections from the plug openings.

2. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein the body has an inner circumferential surface and each projection extends generally radially inwardly from the body inner surface.

3. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 2 wherein the two projections each extend generally toward the plug centerline when the body is disposed about the plug outer surface.

4. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein the body is generally semicircularly shaped.

5. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein the body partially circumscribes a centerline and the two body free ends are angularly spaced apart about the centerline by about one hundred eighty degrees.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

7. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim [[6]] 1 wherein the clip body is disposable upon the plug in a first orientation at which the hinge is located proximal to a first section of the plug outer surface and is alternatively disposable upon the plug in a second orientation at which the hinge is located proximal to a second section of the plug outer surface, the plug first and second surface sections facing generally in opposing directions away from the plug axis.

8. (Currently Amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein the body has two opposing generally parallel, generally flat radial surfaces, one of the two radial surfaces providing the retention surface, and two opposing, generally parallel inner and outer circumferential surfaces such that the body has a generally rectangular cross-section in any plane extending generally perpendicularly through the two radial surfaces.

9. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein the body includes a central hinge portion, a first arm portion extending between the hinge and the first free end and a second arm portion extending between the hinge portion and the second free end, the hinge portion being configured such that at least one of the two arm portions is deflectable generally about the hinge portion so as to move with respect to the other one of the two arm portions.

10. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 9 wherein the body first and second ends are spaced apart by a distance and the hinge is configured such that the one arm portion is movable with respect to the other arm portion so as to increase the spacing distance when the clip is one of being installed upon the plug and being removed from the plug.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~retainer clip for retaining a lock plug within a bore of a lock housing, the housing having a central axis extending through the bore and an end surface extending generally radially with respect to the bore axis, the plug having a longitudinal centerline, an outer circumferential surface and two openings spaced circumferentially about the outer surface, the retainer clip lock assembly comprising:~~

a housing having a bore, a central axis extending through the bore and an end surface extending generally radially with respect to the bore axis;

a lock plug disposable within the housing bore and having an axially extending keyway, an outer circumferential surface, first and second cut-out sections extending radially into the outer surface, the second section extending into the keyway; and

a retainer clip configured to retain the plug within the bore and including a generally arcuate body disposable about generally upon the plug outer surface and having a retention surface positionable generally against the housing end surface so as to prevent axial displacement of the plug along the bore axis, the body having a central hinge portion, a first arm portion extending between the hinge portion and a first free end, and a second arm portion extending between the hinge portion and a second free end, the second end being spaced from the first end, the hinge portion being configured such that at least one of the two arm portions is deflectable generally about the hinge portion so as to move with respect to the other one of the two arm portions, the clip body being disposable upon the plug in a first orientation at which the hinge portion is disposed within the first cut-out section and alternatively disposable upon the plug in a second orientation at which the hinge portion is disposed within the second cut-out section, the hinge having a radially extending stop surface located to prevent movement of a key within the keyway along the bore centerline when the body is disposed in the second orientation.

12. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 11 wherein the body first and second ends are spaced apart by a distance and the hinge is configured such that the one arm portion is movable with respect to the other arm portion so as to increase the spacing distance when the clip is one of being installed upon the plug and being removed from the plug.

13. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 11 wherein the body hinge portion includes a first section connected with the first arm portion and a second section connected with the second arm portion and with the first section, at least one of the two hinge sections being deflectable with respect to the other one of the two hinge sections so as to generally pivot a connected one of the two body arm portions with respect to the other one of the two body arm portions.

14. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 13 wherein the body partially circumscribes a centerline, each one of the two arm portions extends generally circumferentially with respect to the axis, and each one of the two hinge sections extends at least partially radially inwardly from the connected arm portion and generally toward the axis.

15. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 11 wherein the hinge portion is offset generally radially inwardly with respect to the two arm portions.

16. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 11 wherein the hinge portion is generally U-shaped.

17. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 11 wherein the hinge portion is integrally formed with each one of the two arm portions such that the clip is of one-piece construction.

18. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 11 wherein the hinge portion has a radially-extending key stop surface such that when the clip is disposed on the plug, the stop surface is located so as to prevent movement of a key within the plug along the bore centerline.

19. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 11 wherein the body partially circumscribes a centerline and the two body free ends are angularly spaced apart about the centerline by about one hundred eighty degrees.

20. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 19 wherein:

the lock plug has a central axis, an outer circumferential surface extending about the axis and two openings extending radially inwardly from the outer surface, the two openings being angularly spaced apart about the axis by about one-hundred eighty degrees; and

the clip further includes two projections each extending radially inwardly from a separate one of the body free ends, each clip projection being separately disposable within each one of the two plug openings.

Claim 21 (Cancelled).

22. (Currently amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim 11 wherein the first arm portion has substantially greater length than the second arm section such that the hinge is located more proximal to the second end than to the first end.

23. (Currently Amended) The clip lock assembly as recited in claim [[1]]11 wherein the body has two opposing generally parallel, generally flat radial surfaces, one of the two radial surfaces providing the retention surface, and two opposing, generally parallel inner and outer circumferential surfaces such that the body has a generally rectangular cross-section in any plane extending generally perpendicularly through the two radial surfaces.

Claim 24 (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) A lock assembly comprising:

a lock housing having a bore, a longitudinal centerline extending through the bore, and an end surface extending generally radially with respect to the bore centerline axis;

a lock plug disposable within the housing bore and having an outer circumferential surface; and

a generally arcuate retainer clip disposable about generally upon the plug outer surface and having a retention surface positionable generally against the housing end surface so as to prevent axial displacement of the plug along the centerline bore axis, the body clip having a central hinge portion bended portion offset radially inwardly with respect to a remainder of the clip and providing an integral, foldable hinge, a first arm portion extending between the hinge portion and a first free end, and a second arm portion extending between the hinge portion and a second free end, the second end being spaced from the first end, at least one of the two arm portions being pivotable about the hinge portion with respect to the other one of the two arm portions so as to vary a spacing distance between the two ends.

Claim 26 (Cancelled).